

James Hill to George Washington, May 14, 1772, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM MR. JAMES HILL.

YORK COUNTY 14th May 1772

SIR/

On my way to Rockahock the 9th of this Instant I met with Colo. Bassett with your letter & instructions to Receive some money for you I made all the dispatch I could back & have waited on all the gent. you Directed, & received from Colo. Geo Brook Executor to Mr. Philip Claiborne 14£ the 11th of this Inst. of Mr. William Dandridge Junr for Mr. William Dandridge Senr. £22-0-5 the 13th, and of Mr. Thomas Prosser £7-5-9 the 13th. & have seen Augustine Seaton & he told me he Expected the mony Had been Paid long ago by Colo. Moore & believe there is but Little chance to Get any at all from him, & Mr. Foster I went to him from Rockahock & he could not Pay the Hole till New Kent Cot¹ & have sent to Cot. But have not had the returns yet, as it was out of my Power to go up myself Colo. Bassett has paid me 400£ & I have Paid Jackson off & have Taken a Rect. on the Back of the Note of Hand in full & Stopd the 50£ for Chrosia Graves which will pay him immediately—I have not made Sail of But very little of the Corne for the Easten shore Vessels run over & sold at 14/ & Did not care to take less than 15 for what I had which will not be Near so much as I expected for the Spring proving so very Backward & the weather so cold & the fodder has been out Ever since you went away at Every Plantation was oblige to Keep the Stocks upon Corne & have Lossd but few Below & not many above

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they have Destroyed a good deal of corne—the Seins at Rockahock Rented for 90£ which was £7-10 for Every man that took a day & made out his Gang I expected when you was down the Seins would hire at £9 instead of 7£ 10 But when I went up the People woud not Give it I Recd all the money to £3 which I lookd upon to be bad & woud not be concernd with it—The fellow that always run away in Mr. Vollentines time is gone again his Name is Will Shagg I have not struck him a blow since I Lived on the Place I wish you woud agree to sell him I was offerd £80 By Jackson cash if he could be Got, for him

I have Hird a man to worke with Carpenters at a very high Price I could not get a young man for Less than 30 od Pounds & I had an Extrodinary carriter of this man & he formerly worked in the Estate his name is Roger Tandry I could not get him for Less than 45£ a year tho we are not confined to Each other for more than 6 Months tho think it a very High Price but applyed to Several Good Judges & they advised me to give it rather than a young man at 30£ tho would not agree for more than 6 Months, & if you disapprove of it Believe I may Get of sooner for he ant fond of takeing that his Price was 50£ he at last fell to 45 & he woud not confine him Self for more than 6 Months—I have Purchased a horse of the Miller at 9£ for a worke Horse at Mill Quarter I think worke Horses are much wantg. in the Estate but they are so Excessive dear there is no such thing as Purchasing Down with us if its in your Power to Purchase on Reasonable Terms with you shoud be much oblige to you to Purchase one or two by the fall as I immagine they dont sell so dear up the country as they do below—in regard to our Crops there appears to be a plenty of Plants but the weather Proveing very Dry & Cool the fly destroys them very fast & at Rockahock they are Very Backward they have not worke Horses Enough for that Plantation as I think it an Extrodinary Place for Grain you desired to enquire what Mr. Vallentine did with your Horreses upon breakg up your Plantations he sold one to a man that ant worth one farthing I dont think it worth while to bring Suit for not one friend he has will be his Security & he has Parted with the Horse his Name is Wm Blasingham Mr. Vallentine has taken his Note of Hand & I offerd if he woud Give Security I would wait 6 Months but he cant get any one to undertake—Mr. Lyon applyd to me to know what to do with Frazer as the Suit

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abates on Mr. Vallentines death as the Bond was taken in his Name & the Exrs. wants to Assign it to me but I would not be concernd without yr. Instructions for if the Suit had not abated the money might a been got for since his death Trimble is gone off by the bond being taken in his Name that if youl Please to write to me your advice I will follow your Instructions but Shant be concernd with the Bond untel I hear from you, & Mr. Lyons desires to know what you'l have done in it

from your Mo. Hble Servt JAMES HILL

1 Court.